

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

No longer a good fit

As much as Acton will feel the loss of Holly Industries, neighbours of the Eastern Avenue sulphur processing plant must have breathed a sigh of relief when the For Sale sign was posted on the 1.7-acre property. That sign surprised both a former employee, now contracted to decommission the plant, and the Town.

Three times in the past decade, Holly's neighbours have feared for safety with a fire and two explosions, the most recent in July which ended 38 years of production of sulphur, much of it for the tire industry, on the site.

Noting the industry was no longer a good fit for the neighbourhood, Mayor Rick Bonnette said Holly was encouraged to look within Halton Hills – including Acton's near-by industrial area – for a "more suitable location."

No word from parent company, Georgia Gulf Sulphur, about its decision to sell and not relocate in Acton. Calls to the listing agent were not returned at press time.

Thumbs Up

To students from Acton, Georgetown and Christ the King high schools who will raise money for the Georgetown Hospital Foundation by collecting pledges and running between Acton and Georgetown from May 11 to 26. Acton's Alex Hilson intends to make the 30-kilometre round trip 16 days in a row.

To the dedicated Links2Care volunteers who will be honoured for their long service at the annual volunteer appreciation event tomorrow (Friday) in Ballinafad.

Thumbs Down

To the avid Acton hockey lover who allowed his carefully-tended hockey rink, including boards and nets, sink to the bottom of Fairy Lake – lazy puck pollution, at least.

PAST PAGES

TEN YEARS AGO

• With a one-vote margin, Town Council deferred a decision on removing Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs from the list of animals allowed under the Town's Responsible Pet Owners Bylaw.

• With 218 confirmed house sales and all 441 lots sold to two builders, a new neighbourhood – Devon Place – took shape in Acton East, on the south side of Queen Street.

FIVE YEARS AGO

• Dover Flour Mill can build a new silo and relocate four others, despite a past Town committee decision that no new silos be built at the Mill Street operation where neighbours complain of noise and truck traffic.

• The Town paid \$500,000 to buy an eyesore scrap yard in the centre of Limehouse and will discuss potential redevelopment at a public meeting.



DUTIFIL DONOR: Acton's Julia Roehrig, former chair of the Acton blood donor clinics, made her 97th donation at the Canadian Blood Services clinic at the Legion last Thursday. In total, 46 units were collected including donations from two first-timers and one 10th timer. – Ted Tyler photo

Join the celebration

May 13, 1979 our Acton Town Hall had a date with a wrecker's ball, as they say. It was to be flattened. It was deemed not worthy of keeping and was to become a parking lot.

May 14, 1979 Halton Hills Council overruled the date with destiny and put forth the \$40,000, slated to pay for the executioner, to the restoration of the historical site. The then named Town Hall Restoration Committee had won its first battle and embraced the grand old lady vowing to make her beautiful and useful once again.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the Acton Town Hall, now named the Acton Town Hall Centre. It is situated almost in the exact centre of our town. Once upon a time when Acton was not Halton Hills, it was our town's offices and where council met. It also had a grand hall upstairs that was used regularly for everything from dances to evening performances to band concerts. Then, gradually as we became Halton Hills and the world changed, the building became obsolete...or so some thought.



By **Angela Tyler**

There are thousands of stories, some told, and some untold of the ongoing saga to restore the building. These stories started long before May 13, 1979, and for the next 34 years they continued and the volumes of history of Acton expanded.

However, it started with a few who had a passion for their town and wanted to preserve it for generations to come. Some of the few who started with the Town Hall Restoration Committee then became Heritage Acton are still with the group today...still fighting for the grand old lady. Imagine working at something solely as a volunteer for 34+ years while some marriages these days don't even make it to three years. The group has different members now than when it started...some old, some new and some in-between however, they all have the same common goal as it was in the be-

ginning...the preservation of our Town Hall.

It has taken a long time, a lot of patience, tens of thousands of volunteer hours of work and fundraising. There have been pleas for funds through grants, fundraising, donations and anything else the committee could think of. They even had their own weekly lottery for a few years. It was the Acton version of a 649...sort of.

The group went from saving, to restoring and now making it better by adding on. This Sunday, the grand old lady, our Acton Town Hall Center is having the opening of the Citizen's Hall. It is a glorious addition to our Town Hall that finally makes the upstairs accessible to all with a new elevator.

Thirty-four years ago it was going to be a parking lot. Today, our Town Hall is not only beautiful again, also useful where everything from weddings to theatrical performances are enjoyed.

Our Acton Town Hall Citizen's Hall opens this Sunday, 2 - 4 p.m. Please come out and experience part of our town's past, present and future.



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